

**THE MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021**

Present: Councillor L Morton (Chair)
Councillors J Andrews, M Burn, W Day, A Lumsden, J Lee, T Murray and A Robson

Staff: Mrs G M Crute (Parish Clerk); Mrs K Hall (Admin Assistant)

Also Present: County Councillor D Boyes
Deputy Chief Constable D Orford
A resident

The Chairman lost internet connection so the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Day took the Chair in his absence

EVPC 20/21/236

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

RESOLVED: that information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/237

Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

Councillor J Lee declared a personal interest in item 10c as she is an allotment holder. Councillor L Morton declared a personal interest in item 6 Matters Arising point EVPC/20/21/222, as he is a member of the In-Bloom Group.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/238

Deputy Chief Constable Dave Orford

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Deputy Chief Constable Orford to the meeting. Deputy Chief Constable Orford gave Members a brief outline of the issues facing Durham Constabulary including the impact on policing due to the coronavirus pandemic, recruitment of new Police Officers, new challenges when dealing with cyber crime and the recent inspection by HMIC which rated Durham Constabulary as excellent.

The Chairman returned to meeting and took the Chair

The Chairman spoke about the highway infrastructure, the volume of traffic and the speeding of vehicles through the Village.

County Councillor Boyes advised that a multi-agency approach was needed to look at initiatives to improve things within financial constraints. It was hoped that a meeting could be held shortly when restrictions imposed by the coronavirus allowed.

DCC Orford spoke about the problem of fast roads which linked villages together which created speeding issues. This was a countywide problem and some of the solutions that had helped with speeding included community speedwatch campaigns and changes to speed limits eg when a

30mph zone had increased to a 40 mph and had resulted in top speeds being reduced dramatically. This could only be carried out in certain areas.

A Member asked about the use of the mobile speed camera van. DCC Orford commented that when the van was being used it was necessary to advise motorists of its presence. In addition there were restrictions on where it could be located. Community speedwatch was able to target all areas.

Member also enquired about on-going problems with motorbikes on a weekend in particular following the "loop" on and off the A19, the possible use of dashcam footage for vehicles speeding. DCC Orford advised that dashcam footage was a current issue that was being considered by Durham Constabulary.

A Member also highlighted to problems in the village with parking at junctions.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the Neighbourhood Police Team to organise a community speedwatch and to highlight the specific areas to target for parking at junctions.

The chairman thanked DCC Orford for attending the meeting.

Deputy Chief Constable Orford then left the meeting.

EVPC 20/21/239

Public Participation

A resident had submitted a letter which was on the agenda for consideration. The resident wanted to highlight the points referred to in the correspondence regarding anti-social behaviour and littering at the Form Seat, also the condition of the seat. The resident felt that due to the design of the Form Seat led to it being used as a location where anti-social behaviour took place. The resident felt that removing the seat and replacing it with benches would still allow residents to meet and enjoy the views over the Village Green without providing a shelter for anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED

- i) that the information given, be NOTED.
- ii) that this be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

EVPC 20/21/240

Minutes of the last Meeting held on 8 February 2021

RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record, to be signed by the Chairman.

EVPC 20/21/241

Matters Arising

EVPC 20/21/213 **Police Matters** – the Clerk had written to the Chief Constable's Office and Deputy Chief Constable Dave Orford was scheduled to attend the March meeting

- EVPC/20/21/223 **Request for Financial Assistance – Butterwick Hospice Care** – a donation had been paid via Bank Transfer
- EVPC/20/21/224 **Planning Applications** – comments and objections had been submitted as per the minutes
- EVPC/20/21/230 **Section 106 Funding** – once confirmation of a start date for the works was received a notice would be placed in the Noticeboard and on the Council's website
- EVPC/20/21/232 **Proposed History Boards/Artwork at Former Council Offices Site** – the Clerk was working with Councillor Day and would report to a future meeting
- EVPC/20/21/233 **Sea View House, The Green** – The Clerk had written to Durham County Council's Planning Department advising of the Parish Council's concerns

Councillor Morton left the Chair and took no part in the discussion and voting. Councillor Day took the Chair.

- EVPC/20/21/222 **Request for Financial Assistance – Easington Village In-Bloom** – The Clerk updated Members on correspondence received from the In-Bloom Group.

RESOLVED that

- i) the information given, be NOTED;
- ii) a donation of £50 be granted under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to the Easington Village In-Bloom Group

Councillor Morton returned to the Chair

EVPC 20/21/242

Police Matters

The Clerk read out to Members a copy of the report received from the Police.

RESOLVED that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/243

Report of the County Councillor

County Councillor Boyes was in attendance and gave an update on the following issues:-

- Reports of speeding in the area
- Problems being encountered with off road bikes and quads. This was a countywide problem. Warnings had been issued to off road bikes in the Easington area
- Request had been made for road sweepers along Craig and Carlton Terrace. Also request for lengthsman to litter pick along the public rights of way.

A member commented on the condition the roads were left in after utility works had been carried out. A request was made for the road sweeper to attend Fennel Grove, Sunderland Road and Thorpe Road. Councillor Boyes advised he would submit a request for the road sweeper in these areas.

RESOLVED that the information given, be NOTED;

The Chairman thanked Councillor Boyes for his attendance

EVPC 20/21/244

Traffic Problems North Crescent

This item was raised by Councillor Robson who had discussed the issue under agenda item 3.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/245

Land to the West of Tithe Barn Cottages

Members gave consideration to correspondence received from the owners of Tithe Barn Cottages.

RESOLVED that:-

- i) the Clerk advise the owners of Tithe Barn Cottages that the Parish Council did not wish to sell the land or parking area as per their request
- ii) the Clerk make arrangements for the removal of the glass from the wall adjoining Stobart's Farm

EVPC/20/21/246

Review of Room Hire Fees

The Clerk advised that the room hire fees had been increased in 2020. Due to the current situation with the coronavirus Members felt that no increase be made for 2021/22.

RESOLVED: no increased be made for 2021/22.

EVPC 20/21/247

Report of the Cemetery Superintendent

Members gave consideration to the Cemetery Superintendent's report which had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/248

Tree Survey

Members gave consideration to the tree survey that had been carried out. The Clerk advised that a cost of £820.00 had been given to carry out the recommendations contained within the report. However, as the trees were in the Easington Conservation area approval would be required from Durham County Council.

RESOLVED:

- i) that an application for Tree Works in a Conservation Area be made as detailed in the report;
- ii) once approval was granted then the works be carried out.

EVPC 20/21/249

Review of Cemetery Fees

The Clerk advised that the cemetery fees had been increased in 2020. Due to the current situation with coronavirus Members felt that no increase be made for 2021/22.

RESOLVED: no increase be made for 2021/22.

Councillor J Lee declared a personal interest and took n part in the following item.

EVPC 20/21/250

Review of Allotment Fees

The Clerk advised that allotment fees were last increased in 2019. Due to the current situation with coronavirus Members felt that no increase be made for 2021/22.

RESOLVED: no increase be made for 2021/22.

EVPC 20/21/251

Parish Council Financial Status – Bank Balances as at 28.02.2021

The Clerk reported that the bank balances as at 28.02.21 were £1000 in the Savings Account and £100,192.03 in the Current Account totalling £101,192.03

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED

EVPC 20/21/252

Income and Expenditure Report to 28.02.21

The Clerk updated Members on the Council's income and expenditure.

RESOLVED that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/253

Bank Transfers

The Clerk informed Members that the Transfers for February were £14,154 from the Savings Account and £1016.32 from the Current Account

RESOLVED: to ENDORSE the Transfers.

EVPC 20/21/254

Invoices for Endorsement for Payment

RESOLVED:

- i) to ENDORSE the following invoices for payment, together with payments of donations/petty cash/payroll as previously agreed.

| DATE | PAYEE | DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT | CHEQUE NO/DD/BACS |
|---------|------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------|
| 25.2.21 | Hutton Fire Protection | Annual Fire Protection Service | £42. | BACS |
| 23.2.21 | Hutton Fire Protection | Fire Protection Service Cem | £12. | BACS |
| 17.2.21 | Greenham | Black Wheelie Bin Liners | £42.47 | BACS |
| 28.2.21 | Builders Warehouse | Rocksalt | £47.88 | BACS |
| 8.1.21 | Armoured Alarms | Replace Intercom System | £1152. | BACS |
| 1.2.21 | ADT | Alarm Maintenance/Monitor Redcare | £1372.52 | BACS |
| 31.1.21 | Geo Robinson | DIY Products | £50.64 | BACS |
| 16.2.21 | Payroll | 3 rd Party Payments Month 10 | £2836.30 | BACS |
| 26.2.21 | Payroll | Net Payments Month 11 | £6132.10 | BACS |
| 2.2.21 | N Power | SH Gas | £824.16 | DD |
| 6.2.21 | BNP Paribas | Telephone Rental | £39.60 | DD |
| 18.2.21 | Barclays Bank | BACS Charges | £6. | DD |
| 15.2.21 | Chaser Communications | Line Rental/Internet | £75.82 | DD |
| 28.2.21 | ITC | Cloud Mailbox | £8.40 | DD |
| 28.2.21 | ITC | Cloud Back Up | £6. | DD |
| 2.3.21 | Octopus Energy | Electric Cemetery 1-28 th Feb | £15.04 | DD |
| 4.3.21 | EDF | Electric Church F/L | £71. | DD |
| 16.3.21 | Siemens | Photocopier Rental | £114.02 | DD |
| 9.2.21 | Octopus Energy | Cemetery Electric | £23.34 | DD |
| | | TOTAL | £12595.92 | |

EVPC 20/21/255

Income Received

| Customer Number | Description | Amount |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 22 | Office Rent | £600.00 |
| 7 | Allotment Rent/Key Deposit | £35.00 |
| | Total Income | £645.00 |

RESOLVED: that information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/256

Clock Maintenance Renewal

Members gave consideration to correspondence received from Smiths of Derby regarding annual clock service plan.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council enter into a 3 year plan with Smiths of Derby a cost of £542.

EVPC 20/21/257

Review of Internal Audit

Members gave consideration to the report of the Clerk on the effectiveness of internal control.

RESOLVED that the report be RECEIVED.

EVPC 20/21/257

Corporate Risk Assessment 2021/22

Members gave consideration to the Corporate Risk Assessment for 2021/22, a copy of which had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED: that the Corporate Risk Assessment be APPROVED.

EVPC 20/21/258

Planning Applications

There were no planning applications received.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/259

Planning Approvals

DM/20/03087/FPA – Proposed new road and one-way system from Cadwell Lane around the Green, retain one-way system around and in front of the Nursery School and create 16 parking bays on the Green for Durham County Council

DM/21/00016/FPA – Proposed Construction of Smoking Shelter to Rear at Southside Social Club, Southside, Easington Village for Mr Ronnie Walton

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/260

Planning Refusal

There were no planning refusals

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/261

Planning Applications (Withdrawn)

There were no planning applications withdrawn.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/262

Planning Appeals

There were no planning appeals.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/263

The Green Seat (Form Seat)

Members gave consideration to correspondence received from a resident regarding anti-social behaviour occurring at the Form Seat (green seat). This item had been considered under public participation and it had been resolved that it be considered fully at the next parish council meeting.

RESOLVED: the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/264

Free Cycle Parking Stands

Members gave consideration to applying for free cycle parking stands.

RESOLVED: that no application be made.

EVPC 20/21/265

Members reports of their Attendance at Meetings and Events on Behalf of the Parish Council

Due to COVID19 restrictions there had been no attendance by Members.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 20/21/266

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 12th April 2021 at 6.00 pm.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date